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STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
THE SENIOR SANITARY
INSPECTOR

1947

STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS of the STAINES URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1947.

General Statistics

Area—8250 acres, including 405 acres of water.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) ...	37,670
Number of Inhabited houses	9,784
Rateable Value	£359,531
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,462

Social Conditions

Chief industries carried out in the District are:—
Manufacture of Linoleum and Rubber Flooring,
Engineering, Farming, Paint and Varnish manufacture,
Laundries, Fat extraction and refining, Building, Gravel
Raising and Printing.

Unemployment during the year was negligible.

Vital Statistics

The total number of live births during the year was 832; of these 411 were males and 421 females.

The illegitimate live births—included in these figures—totalled 44; 20 males and 24 females.

The Birth Rate was 22.08, as compared to 21.3 in 1946 and 17.8 in 1945.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 20.5.

Still Births numbered 17; 10 males and 7 females. Of these, 1 male was illegitimate.

The Still Birth Rate was 0.45, as compared to 0.54 in 1946, and 0.56 in 1945.

The Still Birth Rate for England and Wales was 0.50.

Deaths

Deaths numbered 402: 210 males and 192 females.

The Death Rate was 10.6, as compared to 9.02 in 1946, and 10.8 in 1945.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 12.0.

Deaths of Infants under one year

All Infants under 1 year per 1000 live Births	...	49.2
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate Births	...	46.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate births	...	90.9
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	5

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :

A. C. MANN, M.C., M.B., CH.B.

District Medical Officers (part time) :

J. Y. SCOTT, M.B., CH.B.

J. A. EDWARDS, M.B., CH.B.

A. C. MANN, M.B., CH.B.

Medical Officer Staines Joint Isolation Hospital (part time) :

H. J. BERGH, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

JOHN MULLIN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A., A.I.HSG.

Sanitary Inspectors :

T. LLOYD, M.S.I.A. (resigned October, 1947).

G. O. AXON, M.S.I.A. (appointed June, 1947).

J. K. EDSON, M.S.I.A. (appointed August, 1947).

Clerk & Shorthand Typist :

MISS L. M. PERRYMAN.

Ambulance Facilities

Two Ambulances are provided by the Council for the transport of non-infectious cases and one for infectious cases by the Staines Joint Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities

Swabs and other material are now examined by the Pathological Department of the Ashford County Hospital.

Clinics & Treatment Centres

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, School Clinics and Tuberculosis Dispensaries are provided and supervised by the Middlesex County Council.

Hospitals

Staines Joint Isolation Hospital is used for certain of the infectious diseases from the Staines Urban District alone.

74 cases were admitted and spent a total of 1270 days in Hospital, an average of a little over 17 days each.

Staines Hospital and Ashford County Hospital are being increasingly used by the District.

Nursing in the Homes

District Nurses are being provided by the various Wards for General Nursing and in conjunction with the Middlesex County Council for Maternity work.

These Nurses continue to do invaluable work in the District and there are few homes where their presence has not, at some time or the other, been eagerly welcomed.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

Water

The principal water supply to the Area is from the South West Suburban Water Company, but part of Laleham Ward is supplied by the West Surrey Water Company, and part of the Colnbrook Area by the Borough of Slough Water Company.

Regular bacteriological examinations are made of the raw water and of the water going into supply, and I am informed that an average of 70 bacteriological examinations are made annually, and that these have all been satisfactory. In addition check samples are taken by the Council's Sanitary Inspector and these also were satisfactory.

The waters have no plumbo-solvent action and no action was necessary in respect of any contamination. All dwelling houses have a supply from the public mains direct to the house with the exception of a very few houses in outlying parts of the Area, which have stand-pipes or pumped supplies. Check samples are taken of the pumped supplies.

Drainage & Sewage

Sewage is disposed of at the West Middlesex Drainage Area works at Mogden.

There are still a large number of houses drained to cesspools in spite of the fact that in a great many cases there are sewers provided.

This is an unsatisfactory method of drainage and gives rise to considerable nuisances, but in the absence of definite powers to compel owners to connect to the sewer where this is available, little progress can be made, unless the owner is co-operative.

Public Cleansing

Domestic refuse is now collected weekly, and this is an improvement over the fortnightly collection which obtained during the War.

The refuse tip in Short Lane has given rise to some nuisance during the year, but this will be abated when the tip is finished and arrangements made for disposal of household refuse elsewhere.

Rivers & Streams

Pollution of the River Thames and the main streams feeding the River is dealt with by the Thames Conservancy Board.

Action was taken to deal with minor pollution of other streams on two occasions.

Camping Sites

Licensing of Camping Sites is carried out under the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944, Section 345.

Five applications for the use of land for occupation by moveable dwellings were received during the year.

Four were granted and one refused.

The Council's Camping Site at Laleham Park was well patronised during the summer months.

Smoke Abatement

Atmospheric pollution by smoke is not a serious problem in this Area, but there are three factory stacks which give rise to smoke and grit nuisance and representations were made to the firms concerned on several occasions when prolonged emission of smoke was observed.

Temporary Provision of Insulin

During the year free supplies of Insulin were given to a number of people suffering from Diabetes, in conformity with the Ministry of Health Circular 2734.

Premises and Occupations in the District subject to Control by the Local Authority

Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings.

Offensive Trades.

Slaughter-houses.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment.

Hairdressers and Barbers Premises.

Open Air Markets.

Adulteration of Foodstuffs

Sampling for the detection and prevention of adulteration of food is undertaken by Inspectors of the Middlesex County Council.

Notifiable Diseases

A chart showing the diseases notified, their age groups and the number treated in hospital is appended.

It is, I think, satisfactory.

Of the cases of Diphtheria notified one had been immunised.

Tuberculosis

Forty one cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and four cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Eleven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis died during the year.

Scabies and Lice Infestation

Very few cases were seen during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

The response to Immunisation has been good. 1,112 children in all having been treated, of these 851 were successfully immunised, 588 under five years of age, and 263 between 5 and 15 years.

Two hundred and sixty one received reinforcing doses as a precautionary measure.

I attach a list showing the causes of death in the Area during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. C. MANN.

TUBERCULOSIS

		NOTIFICATIONS				DEATHS			
<i>Age</i>		<i>Pulm.</i>		<i>Non-Pulm.</i>		<i>Pulm.</i>		<i>Non-Pulm.</i>	
<i>Periods</i>		<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0—2	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25	...	7	8	1	—	1	1	—	1
25—35	...	4	7	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	...	3	2	—	1	2	3	—	—
45—55	...	3	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	...	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
65—75	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
		20	21	1	3	6	5	—	1
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS :		41		4		11		1	
		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

DISEASES NOTIFIED

Disease	0-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	Totals	Totals after Investigation	No. treated in Hospital	Average Stay in Hospital Days
Scarlet Fever	1	11	27	2	2	—	2	—	—	45	45	40	21
Diphtheria	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	4	2	2	26
Measles	14	74	78	5	1	—	—	—	—	172	172	11	8
Pneumonia	—	—	2	1	—	3	2	2	1	11	11	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	12	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	27	27	11	13
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	3	3	13
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	3	17
Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	4	4	23
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH

Disease	Male	Female
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	1
Whooping Cough ...	—	2
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	6	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	—	1
Syphilitic Disease ...	2	1
Influenza ...	2	3
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus	3	—
Cancer of Uterus ...	—	3
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	5	5
Cancer of the Breast ...	—	3
Cancer of all other sites ...	16	4
Diabetes ...	3	—
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions ...	19	29
Heart Disease ...	54	54
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	10
Bronchitis ...	13	9
Pneumonia ...	12	13
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1
Ulcer of the Stomach or Duodenum ...	4	1
Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	3	2
Appendicitis ...	—	1
Other Digestive Disease ...	5	3
Nephritis ...	5	1
Premature birth ...	10	15
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, Infantile Diseases ...	7	1
Suicide ...	3	1
Road Traffic Accidents ...	10	2
Other violent causes ...	7	7
All other causes ...	14	14
	210	192
	Total: 402	

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by L.A.'s ...	20	20	2	Nil
2. Factories not in- cluded in 1., to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the L.A.'s (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ...	115	115	5	Nil
(b) Others ...	—	—	—	—
3. Other Premises under the Act (ex- cluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
TOTALS :	135	135	7	Nil
	—	—	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

				Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
	Found	Remedied				
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—		—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—		—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp. (S.3)	—	—		—	—	—
Inad. Vent'n. (S.4) ...	—	—		—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—		—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—						
(a) insufficient ...	2	2		—	2	Nil
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	3	3		—	—	Nil
(c) not separate for sexes ...	1	1		—	—	Nil
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	2	2		—	—	Nil
	—	—		—	—	—
TOTAL :	8	8		—	2	Nil
	—	—		—	—	—

Outworkers :

There are only 3 outworkers in the Area.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1947

SUMMARY OF HOUSING AND SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing.

Housing Act, 1936, section 9:—				
Inspections	...	...	...	22
Reinspections	...	...	...	120
Public Health Act, 1936:—				
Inspections	...	...	...	1026
Reinspections	...	...	...	2548
Overcrowding—No. of inspections	...	...	...	101
Council Houses	...	...	...	77
Rent and Mortgage Restriction Acts	...	...	...	3
				3897

General

Building Licensing	...	...	...	217
Provision of Ashbins	...	...	...	119
Drainage	...	...	...	198
Drain testing	...	...	...	60
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	...	18
Factories	...	...	...	73
Vermin	...	...	...	32
Keeping of Animals and Poultry	...	...	...	75
Water Supplies	...	...	...	63
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	65
Food Premises	...	...	...	534
Caravans	...	...	...	33
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	31
Places of Public Entertainment	...	...	...	34
Flooded Premises	...	...	...	285
Shops Acts	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	47
				1918
				5815

Number of Notices Served:—

	<i>Informal</i>	<i>Formal</i>
Housing Act, 1936, section 9 ...	9	7
Public Health Act, 1936 ...	530	137
Shops Acts, 1912—1936 ...	3	—
Food & Drugs Act, 1938 ...	3	—
	545	144

WORKS COMPLETED—Nuisances abated, etc.:—

Dampness remedied ...	97
Roofs repaired ...	106
Floors repaired ...	60
Walls repaired ...	131
Ceilings repaired ...	128
Windows repaired or renewed ...	103
General internal repairs ...	102
General external repairs ...	60
Dustbins provided ...	56
Cesspools cleansed (Statutory Notice) ...	43
Rainwaters gutters and pipes ...	75
Chimneys overhauled ...	17
Additional W.C.'s provided ...	2
Additional water supply and sinks provided ...	2
Yard paving repaired or renewed ...	9
Fire grates repaired or renewed ...	50
Verminous premises cleansed ...	16
Other premises cleansed ...	73
Houses provided with proper water supply ...	2
Domestic chimneys—nuisance abated ...	10
Drains—new, repaired, cleared, etc. ...	74
W.C. and fittings repaired or renewed ...	86
New sinks ...	4
Washing accommodation ...	4
Waste pipes, new or repaired ...	25
Cesspools abolished ...	55
Miscellaneous ...	15
	1405

COMPLAINTS.

1028 complaints were received during the year, all received prompt attention.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Proceedings were taken under Section 94 of the Act in respect of 29 houses requiring the abatement of nuisances. Orders were made in each case and the necessary works carried out.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts ...	1048
-----	-----	--	------

	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	3716
--	-----	---	------

(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
-----	-----	---	---

	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
--	-----	---	---

(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
-----	--	--	---

(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	548
-----	--	---	-----

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	417
--	--	--	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—
 - (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 7
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices: —
 - (a) By owners 5
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners 2
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 137
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
 - (a) By owners 118
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners 5
 - (c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made —
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders —
 - (d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which closing orders were made 1

- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... —

HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV—OVERCROWDING.

68 houses were known to be overcrowded and 21 cases were relieved by re-housing during the year.

Food Inspection

The following foods were surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

Bacon	...	49½ lbs.	Tinned foods	3814	tins
Margarine	...	240 lbs.	Crumpets	...	32 doz.
Flour	...	152 lbs.	Jelly	...	5 ptk.
Cereals	...	267 lbs.	Crispbread	...	5 "
Sausages	...	220 lbs.	Soup powder	58	"
Jam	...	8 lbs.	Sweetbreads	33	"
Meat	...	2240 lbs.	Apples	...	1 box
Fish	...	3598 lbs.	Pickles	...	53 bottles
Butter	...	2½ lbs.	Fish cakes	...	350
Cake	...	30 lbs.	Poultry	...	48 chickens
Cheese	...	47 lbs.	Meat pies	...	51 doz.
Onions	...	90 lbs.	Eggs	...	693
Cocoa	...	20 lbs.	Dates	...	50 pkts.
Sugar	...	56 lbs.	Potatoes	...	112 lbs.
Oranges	...	180 lbs.	Canned Meat	325½	lbs.
Biscuits	...	192 lbs.	Tea	...	107 lbs.

Notification of slaughter of 42 pigs and 1 calf under Ministry of Food permits was received; all were inspected and the following were found diseased and unfit for human consumption.

3 pigs' heads—tuberculosis.

2 pigs' carcasses and offal—pathological emaciation and oedema.

1 pig's carcass and offal—febrile condition.

All foods surrendered are salvaged for industrial use or animal feeding wherever practicable.

Inspection of Food Premises

				<i>No. of Inspections</i>
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	19
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	65
Bakehouses	...	...	...	13
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	80
Restaurants and Cafes	...	...	...	12
Other Food Premises	...	...	...	345
				534

Proceedings were instituted against the occupier of one premises for infringements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Milk and Dairies Regulations

Inspection of dairies and cowsheds is carried out by a veterinary officer appointed for this purpose.

The following samples of milk were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors.

Pasteurised Milk.

Most of the milk sold in the district is pasteurised and 28 samples were taken to check the efficiency of the pasteurising process. 24 samples satisfied the phosphatase test and 4 failed. The samples failing were from one supplier who undertook improvements and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Ungraded Milk.

6 samples were taken. 3 samples satisfied the methylene blue test and 3 failed.

3 samples of raw milk were submitted for biological examination. All were reported free from tubercle bacilli.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations

Particular attention was given and frequent inspections made of the conditions under which ice-cream was manufactured and retailed. 51 samples of ice-cream were submitted to the methylene blue test and graded as follows:—

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
13	16	18	4

The grades are those recommended by the Ministry of Health and the methylene blue test is an indication of the bacteriological cleanliness of the ice-cream. Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory and a good manufacturer normally has no difficulty in reaching this standard.

Infectious Diseases

65 visits were made to houses where infectious diseases occurred and 35 houses were disinfected.

Rodent Control

This work was carried out by the Staines, Hayes & Harlington and Yiewsley & West Drayton Joint Rodent Committee during 1947.

Floods

The serious flooding which occurred in the Thames Valley during March, 1947, affected some 1,200 houses causing considerable hardship, and emergency relief measures were undertaken by all sections of the Council's staff.

In addition to houses actually flooded, many roads were under water and sewers were affected, and although residents experienced much discomfort there was no real danger to public health since crude sewage was so diluted by flood water as to be relatively harmless.

Building Licensing

The Public Health Department issued certificates to acquire materials in short supply for essential repairs, and during the period this scheme was in operation 988 certificates were issued. At the request of the Council's Licensing Department 217 properties were inspected on applications for building licences.

